Amendments to Specification:

On page 1, please amend the heading at line 13 as follows:

Background and Field ~~of Invention~~

On page 1, please replace the third paragraph, lines 14-23, with the following amended paragraph:

The following ~~This invention~~ relates to blood product management and more particularly relates to a novel and improved computer programmable method and system for blood product management including cross-matching and compatibility testing of blood products as well as the ability to display information about a patient during the preparation of blood components prior to transfusion and which is specifically adaptable for use in hospitals, clinics and the like.

On page 5, please replace the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6, with the following amended paragraph:

Accordingly~~In accordance with the present invention~~, there are specific requisites to reliable, secure cross-matching of certain blood products, namely, receiving an order for the blood product, tracking segments of the blood components in inventory, locating a specimen of the patient's blood and transferring it to a given location, which typically would be a lab or blood bank at the hospital where the inventoried blood segments are located.

On page 6, please replace the second paragraph, lines 2-11, with the following amended paragraph:

It is therefore a ~~an object and~~ feature ~~of the present invention~~ to control the remote testing of compatibility of a blood product and patient specimen to ensure the safety of the blood component transfusion into the human body by using a segment of the blood product assigned at the lab and mixing it with a portion of the patient specimen so as to achieve efficiency in the delivery of blood components both for emergency and non-emergency situations.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 with the following amended paragraph:

Another feature~~object of the present invention~~ is to provide a computer ~~programmable~~ system that enables remote testing of patient blood and a segment of the blood component intended for transfusion remotely through the steps of (a) assigning a blood product, which is typically stored at a central facility, to a patient for testing at the central facility and preparing a segment of the blood component; (b) transferring to the facility a blood specimen drawn from the patient; (c) testing the segment of the blood component assigned with the blood specimen drawn from the patient to determine their compatibility; (d) whether or not compatible, printing a product ID tag at the facility where the blood component is located; and (e) continuously tracking movement

of the blood product and specimen between the central facility and hospital on a database.

On page 7, please replace the second paragraph, lines 2-8, with the following amended paragraph:

Another ~~object and~~ feature ~~of the present invention~~ is to track patient blood attributes and blood component attributes in such a way as to ensure that the attributes are compatible with each other, as well as to ensure that the transfused blood component is compatible with the patient who is receiving the transfusion.

On page 7, please replace the third paragraph, lines 9-15, with the following amended paragraph:

A further feature ~~object of the present invention~~ is to provide for a novel and improved method and means for displaying critical patient information during the preparation of blood products prior to transfusion so as to make readily available to the medical technician important current and historical information about the patient.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 with the following amended paragraph:

In one aspect~~accordance with the present invention~~, a ~~programmable~~ method of managing and tracking blood products is

provided for use between a plurality of remote patient facilities and a central blood testing facility including the steps of obtaining a blood specimen from each patient who requires a blood reserve, selecting a blood product for cross-matching with each said patient specimen, cross-matching each said patient specimen and said blood product to determine their compatibility with one another, and providing a database for the entry of information pertaining to each patient. Preferably, the step of storing information is further characterized by information relating to a patient's special needs, prior transfusion history, autologous blood availability and its location, blood type and patient specimen expiration date. Still further, the method is characterized by being able to record information as to the location and patient blood attributes in the database.

On page 8, please replace the second paragraph, lines 8-21, with the following amended paragraph:

A ~~programmable~~ system has been devised for managing and tracking blood products between a central blood test facility and a plurality of remote facilities which includes means for recording information on a database which identifies each patient requiring a blood reserve, means for obtaining a blood specimen from each said patient, means for assigning a segment of a blood product for cross-matching and for cross-matching each said segment and patient

specimen to determine their compatibility with one another, and means for identifying each segment and patient specimen determined to be compatible as well as storing same in the computer.

On page 9, please replace the third paragraph, lines 22-28, with the following amended paragraph:

The above and other objects, advantages and features ~~of the present invention~~ will become more readily appreciated and understood from a consideration of the following detailed description of preferred and modified forms ~~of the present invention~~ when taken together with the accompanying drawings in which:

On page 9, please replace the eighth paragraph, lines 20-21, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 8 is a screen display of a patient bar ~~in accordance with the present invention~~;

On page 11, please replace the title on line 1, with the following amended title:

Detailed Description of One~~Preferred~~ Embodiment

On page 11, please replace the first paragraph, lines 2-6, with the following amended paragraph:

The one embodiment herein described ~~preferred form of invention~~ allows a blood bank to maximize its efficiency in cross-matching a blood component to a patient for transfusion. This efficiency will result in improved patient care by the blood bank and the hospital. This process allows timesaving during the testing and the time needed to transfer the blood product to the patient site. The requirements for this process are to have complete tracking of the blood component, the blood component segment, the patient, and the patient specimen. Any one of these requirements not met could result in a mismatch of the component and the patient which can result in serious health problems to the recipient of the blood.

On page 12, please replace the first paragraph, lines 1-10, with the following amended paragraph:

~~In accordance with the present invention~~, ~~the~~ The hospital is able to track the location of the patient specimen, segment of the blood component and the blood component itself. The cross-match compatibility testing is completed using the segment of the blood component and the patient specimen while the blood component resides at a different location. This process will allow

efficient and timely delivery of blood components in both emergency and non-emergency situations.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 26 and 27 with the following amended paragraph:

It is therefore to be understood that while one embodiment is~~preferred and modified forms of the present invention are~~ herein set forth and disclosed, other modifications and changes may be made therein ~~without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention~~ as defined by the appended claims and reasonable equivalents thereof.